

Application No. 10/815,918
Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

2 of 11

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous set of pending claims with the following complete set of pending claims.

1. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
 - at least one wetness sensation member including a water-permeable body-facing layer covering a portion of the absorbent core and a flow control layer disposed between the water-permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the water-permeable body-facing layer and having two laterally opposed flow control layer side edges, at least a portion of each of the two flow control layer side edges being disposed laterally inwardly of the article side edges; and
 - at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable body-facing layer in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.
2. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener.
3. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the refastenable side seam comprises at least one discrete mating fastening component with which the primary fastening component is adapted to engage.

Application No. 10/815,918

3 of 11

Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

4. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the refastenable side seam is adapted to fasten the opposing waist regions together in an overlapped configuration and comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective overlapped portions of the opposing waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component.
5. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 4 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener and the secondary fastening component is an adhesive.
6. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 further comprising a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
7. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 6 wherein the visible highlighting comprises at least one area of the flow control layer of the wetness sensation member including a graphic visibly differing in coloration from the topsheet.
8. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 6 wherein the visible highlighting is associatively correlated with the concept of urinary toilet training.
9. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
 - at least one wetness sensation member comprising a water-permeable portion of the topsheet covering a portion of the absorbent core and a flow control layer disposed between the water-permeable portion of the topsheet and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the water-permeable portion of the topsheet and having two laterally opposed flow control layer side edges, at least a portion of each of the two flow control layer side edges being disposed laterally inwardly of the article side edges; and

Application No. 10/815,918

4 of 11

Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable portion of the topsheet in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

10. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 9 further comprising a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
11. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 9 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another.
12. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the topsheet comprises two longitudinally extending oppositely facing Z-folds parallel to the longitudinal axis and the flow control layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members is disposed within a respective one of the two Z-folds.
13. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 12 wherein the two Z-folds further comprise two longitudinally extending elastic members disposed along the two flow control layers.
14. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;

Application No. 10/815,918

5 of 11

Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

at least one wetness sensation member including a water-permeable body-facing layer covering a portion of the absorbent core and a flow control layer disposed between the water-permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the water-permeable body-facing layer, no portion of the water-permeable body-facing layer extending longitudinally or transversely beyond the flow control layer; and

at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable body-facing layer in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

15. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis, no portion of the water-permeable body-facing layer of each of the respective wetness sensation members extending longitudinally or transversely beyond the respective flow control layer.
16. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 further comprising a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
17. (Original) A package comprising a plurality of disposable absorbent articles for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer, each of the disposable absorbent articles having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, and comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
 - at least one wetness sensation member including a water-permeable body-facing layer covering a portion of the absorbent core and a flow control layer disposed between the water-permeable

Application No. 10/815,918

6 of 11

Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

body-facing layer and the absorbent core in a face-to-face arrangement with the water-permeable body-facing layer and having two laterally opposed flow control layer side edges, at least a portion of each of the two flow control layer side edges being disposed laterally inwardly of the article side edges; and

at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable body-facing layer in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction and supports the movement of the urine in an x-y plane such that the wearer's awareness of urination is enhanced.

18. (Original) The package of Claim 17 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles is configured such that the refastenable side seam is fastened.
19. (Original) The package of Claim 17 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
20. (Original) The package of Claim 17 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective portions of the opposing waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component, the secondary fastening component being fastened and the primary fastening component being open.
21. (New) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;

Application No. 10/815,918

7 of 11

Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

at least one wetness sensation member including a flow control layer disposed between a water-permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core; and

at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,

wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable body-facing layer in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction.

22. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener.
23. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 wherein the refastenable side seam comprises at least one discrete mating fastening component with which the primary fastening component is adapted to engage.
24. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 wherein the refastenable side seam is adapted to fasten the opposing waist regions together in an overlapped configuration and comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective overlapped portions of the opposing waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component.
25. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 24 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener and the secondary fastening component is an adhesive.
26. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 further comprising a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
27. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 21 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another.

Application No. 10/815,918
Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

8 of 11

28. (New) A disposable absorbent article for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer and having a longitudinal axis, a body-facing surface, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, the disposable absorbent article comprising:
- a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet;
 - at least one flow control layer;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet, at least a portion of the absorbent core being disposed between the flow control layer and the backsheet; and
 - at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,
- wherein the flow control layer retards flow in a z direction of urine deposited by the wearer into the disposable absorbent article.
29. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 28 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener.
30. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 28 wherein the refastenable side seam comprises at least one discrete mating fastening component with which the primary fastening component is adapted to engage.
31. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 28 wherein the refastenable side seam is adapted to fasten the opposing waist regions together in an overlapped configuration and comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective overlapped portions of the opposing waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component.
32. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 31 wherein the primary fastening component is a mechanical fastener and the secondary fastening component is an adhesive.
33. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 28 further comprising a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the flow control layer in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface.

Application No. 10/815,918
Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

9 of 11

34. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 28 comprising a plurality of the wetness sensation members disposed parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axis and spaced apart from one another.
35. (New) A package comprising a plurality of disposable absorbent articles for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer, each of the disposable absorbent articles having a longitudinal axis, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, and comprising:
- a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet and having a body-facing surface;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet;
 - at least one wetness sensation member including a flow control layer disposed between a water-permeable body-facing layer and the absorbent core; and
 - at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,
- wherein urine deposited by the wearer onto the wetness sensation member can penetrate through the water-permeable body-facing layer in a z-direction away from the wearer to the flow control layer and the flow control layer retards the passage of the urine through the wetness sensation member in the z-direction.
36. (New) The package of Claim 35 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles is configured such that the refastenable side seam is fastened.
37. (New) The package of Claim 35 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the wetness sensation member in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface of the topsheet to facilitate an opportunity for urinary toilet training of the wearer.
38. (New) The package of Claim 35 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective portions of the opposing

Application No. 10/815,918
Preliminary Amendment dated 12 May 2004

10 of 11

waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component, the secondary fastening component being fastened and the primary fastening component being open.

39. (New) A package comprising a plurality of disposable absorbent articles for wearing about a lower torso of a wearer, each of the disposable absorbent articles having a longitudinal axis, a body-facing surface, two laterally opposed article side edges extending between a laterally extending first waist edge in a first waist region and a laterally extending second waist edge in a longitudinally opposing second waist region, and a crotch region between the waist regions, and comprising:
- a backsheet;
 - a topsheet attached to the backsheet;
 - at least one flow control layer;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the backsheet and the topsheet, at least a portion of the absorbent core being disposed between the flow control layer and the backsheet; and
 - at least one refastenable side seam at which the opposing waist regions are fastened together at or adjacent to one of the article side edges to form a leg opening, the refastenable side seam comprising at least a primary fastening component disposed in one of the waist regions and being capable of fastening to the opposing waist region,
- wherein the flow control layer retards flow in a z direction of urine deposited by the wearer into the disposable absorbent article.
40. (New) The package of Claim 39 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles is configured such that the refastenable side seam is fastened.
41. (New) The package of Claim 39 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises a visible highlighting indicating a presence of the flow control layer in the disposable absorbent article and being visible at least when viewing the body-facing surface.
42. (New) The package of Claim 39 wherein each of the disposable absorbent articles further comprises at least one secondary fastening component adapted to fasten respective portions of the opposing waist regions together adjacent to the primary fastening component, the secondary fastening component being fastened and the primary fastening component being open.